

CHROMIS AUREUS STEINDACHNER, 1864 (PISCES, CICHLIDAE):
PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL LIST OF SPECIFIC NAMES.
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Chromis aureus Steindachner, 1864 was described from an unstated number of specimens from West Africa. One specimen in the Vienna Museum (No. 32874) is registered as "typus" of this species and agrees with the description, figure and size given by Steindachner. In 1870 Steindachner himself placed the name in the synonymy of "*Chromis niloticus*" (= *Tilapia nilotica*), along with other names some of which have subsequently been recognized as valid. Later it was placed by Pellegrin (1903) and Boulenger (1915) in the synonymy of another species of *Tilapia*.

The species which this type specimen represents was not recognized until 1951, when Steinitz described it as a subspecies of *T. nilotica* from a small isolated population in a rather specialized habitat in the Jordan Valley, naming it *T. n. exul*.

In 1954 it was described again as *T. monodi* Daget, from the Middle Niger. Daget later (e.g. 1961) found it more widely distributed in West Africa. Both these synonyms are subjective.

Although the name *Chromis aureus* has never been literally *oblitum*, the definition of *nomen oblitum* in Art. 23b would technically cover it, because it was not used as a senior synonym since its proposal in 1864, until now, when I propose so to use it (Trewavas, 1966, and in a monograph of the genus *Tilapia* in preparation). All the time the description and figure and at least one type-specimen in Vienna have been available.

I therefore ask the Commission to place the following on the Official List of Specific names in Zoology:

aureus Steindachner, 1864, as published in the binomen *Chromis aureus* with the type-locality narrowed from the original datum "West Afrika" to "River Senegal", where the species which it is believed to represent is known to occur.

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